

**FINAL / Minutes of the Animal Welfare Committee**  
**City Hall, City of College Park**  
**February 27, 2014**

<u>Members</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Taimi Anderson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Suzie Bellamy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Patti Brothers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vivian Cooper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Harriet McNamee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Christine Nagle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dave Turley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Christiane Williams	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cindy Vernasco	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Chairperson McNamee called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**I. Approval of the Meeting Minutes**

**Motion:** To approve the January 23, 2014 Animal Welfare Committee meeting minutes.

**Moved:** Ms. Brothers

**Second:** Mr. Turley

**Aye:** Unanimous

**Nay:** 0

**Abstain:** 0

**II. ACO Report**

The AWC currently has a balance of \$7,661.29; vet expenditures to date total \$3,426.06 of the \$3,000 budgeted for vet expenditures; animal control cost recovery has a \$4,195 credit.

**III. Shelter/Adoption Report**

Cat adoptions (since 1/24/14): Buddy (Ohio), Fox, Jewel & Jazz, Paris, Shugie

Currently in Petco (1/24-2/27/14):

Cats - Badger, Jazz, Jewel, Mouse (return), Paris, Panther

Dogs – Mercedes (owner surrender, transfer to PGAMG), Sweetie Petey

Currently in Shelter (1/24-2/24/14): Ostara (rabbit)

**IV. Proposed County Shelter**

Chairperson McNamee as well as representatives from the Office of the County Council were in attendance at the Four Cities meeting on January 30, 2014. There was a discussion of the proposed regional shelter, and the Four Cities are in support the idea. Currently, the biggest issue is how it will be financed. Mr. Ortiz, Director for the Department of Environmental Resources, which oversees the Animal Management

Division, had attended a previous meeting. He feels that the proposed regional shelter will have a different outcome than the current County shelter due to the management of the shelter, which may also involve the Humane Society and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. A representative from both of these organizations will be invited to join the discussion at the next Four Cities meeting. County support for this proposed shelter may be due to the fact that the majority of pet adoptions from the current facility are from residents in the northern part of the County. A discussion on the estimated timeframe for the shelter opening ranged from 2-5 years.

During the February 2014 AWC meeting, ACO Cooper stated that the proposed County shelter should be open to other municipalities besides the Four Cities (Berwyn Heights, College Park, Greenbelt, and New Carrollton). She also advised AWC members that an email to the City from Mr. Ortiz stated that the County budget includes funding for a study regarding the proposed shelter, which he fully expects to have cut; there was also a question regarding matching funding by other municipalities.

## **V. AWC Committee Purpose and Focus**

Ms. Nagle will talk to Councilmember Stulich regarding the original purpose of the AWC. Chairperson McNamee outlined the official purpose of the AWC according to the City Charter, effective June 12, 2007:

- Address issues related to domestic and wild animals in the City of College Park;
- Work with the City ACO to plan activities and initiatives to promote animal welfare ;
- Educate the community about responsible pet ownership, wildlife management, and pest control;
- Advise the Mayor and City Council on animal welfare-related issues; and
- Coordinate with animal welfare and rescue organizations.

Some other suggestions for the AWC purpose/focus and visibility were as follows:

- Work with the adoption of animals through Petco;
- Help at the shelter;
- Repackage the AWC's message to educate the community about pet ownership and possibly receive training from ACO Cooper for a consistent message on responsible pet ownership;
- Provide more pet parks in the City,
- Provide an AWC page on the City website (ACO Cooper stated that the City website has been updated, and there is currently no third-party hosting; she could have links or pictures added or other changes made);
- Work with other organizations to co-sponsor programs at the library or the City arts organization; and
- Inform residents that the AWC is in need of fosters and has dogs and rabbits for adoption.

## **VI. Budget Wish List**

It was suggested to request a generator for the shelter.

## **VII. Petco**

Ms. Brothers is concerned about the location and lack of visibility for the habitat at Petco. She ordered a vinyl banner from Vista Print that has been installed over the habitat. Although Chairperson McNamee feels that the structure is deteriorating, Ms. Brothers stated that nothing can be done about the particle board since it gets wet when the cats play in the water; however, she stated that the carpet on the ledges may need to be replaced.

Petco volunteer Asha, a University of Maryland student, is not currently working at Petco due to a change in her spring schedule. However, a volunteer from Best Dog (a rescue group that comes to Petco twice a month) approached Ms. Brothers about volunteering at Petco, which she now does on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Chairperson McNamee will meet with Wendy Phillips on Saturday to discuss her becoming a Petco volunteer.

## **VIII. Spring Activities**

There was a discussion regarding which upcoming fundraisers and community events the AWC would participate in due to the decreasing membership. It was decided that the AWC will not participate in Behnke's Open House in March or Berwyn Heights Day in May. However, Ms. Nagle volunteered to update the tri-fold board for Maryland Day (April 26) to represent the AWC. Chairperson McNamee and Ms. Brothers may attend.

## **IX. New AWC Co-Chairperson**

**Motion:** To nominate Chris Nagle as the AWC Co-Chairperson.

<b>Moved:</b> Chairperson McNamee	<b>Second:</b> Mr. Turley
<b>Aye:</b> Unanimous	<b>Nay:</b> 0 <b>Abstain:</b> 0

## **X. Other Business**

- Chairperson McNamee received emails from Councilmembers Hew, Kabir, Mitchell, Wojahn, and Mayor Fellows, as well as City Manager Joe Nagro and Department of Public Services Director Bob Ryan thanking her for the annual AWC Report she submitted to the Mayor and Council.
- Ms. Anderson's AWC membership term expired on June 30, 2013; Ms. Bellamy's AWC membership term expired on September 30, 2013. Both are requested to contact their councilmember to renew their term as an AWC member.

## **XI. Adjournment**

The AWC meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m. The next AWC meeting is scheduled for March 27 at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall.

Minutes prepared by Debra Pinkett